

OCI No. 1562/63

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
5 June 1963

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Description of Playa de Puerto Rico, Cuba

1. The village of Puerto Rico, in Cuba's Oriente Province, appears to be a typical, quiet Cuban coastal village. Recent high altitude photography shows no military vehicles or any sign of military activity or construction in the area. No boats are present in the port nor does the port have a pier or other facilities.

2. Near the village is a small bay which is very shallow and marked with sand bars and mud flats, although it does contain a narrow, natural channel. The area to seaward of the bay, however, is ringed with reefs and at a distance of 700 yards offshore the water only reaches a depth of 18 feet. (A long-range Soviet submarine would draw at least 20 feet.) The terrain inland from the beach around Puerto Rico is quite low, generally rising to an elevation of about five meters one-half mile from the beach.

3. The physical and hydrographic features of the area around Puerto Rico make it an improbable site for a submarine base and it is unlikely that it has been selected for such a role. Moreover, there is no evidence that any Soviet submarines have operated in the vicinity of Cuba since October 1962.

S E C R E T